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NEWS RELEASE

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California Television Producer Charged with Securities Fraud, Elder Abuse

Ottis took \$180,000 from a senior citizen neighbor, saying money would fund TV programs . . .

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Joseph Paul Ottis, 62, a man who claimed to be a television producer and film maker, was charged today with one second-degree count of securities fraud and one count of exploitation of an elder adult, a third degree felony. The charges stem from \$180,000 he took from an investor, claiming the money would be used to develop a television program for children. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison. The charges were filed by the Financial Crimes Unit of the Utah Attorney General's Office.

The charging documents describe how Ottis approached a neighbor in his apartment complex about investing in Globie International, LLC. Ottis allegedly told the investor that he had created "Globie characters" which would star in a television program and educate children about the planets, preserving the earth, finding missing children, and assisting battered women. He claimed to be a producer and film maker known by several Hollywood producers. He also allegedly said he was worth millions and financially successful in previous ventures. According to the charging documents, he gave the investor Globie t-shirts for her grandchildren, pictures of the Globie characters, and some promotional DVDs.

Ottis allegedly showed the investor financial projections for the company and said money she invested would be used to pay for travel expenses and to launch production of the television show. He claimed to be in the process of negotiating contracts with Disney and Nickelodeon. He told the investor she would earn 10-20% annual interest and would also receive 2% of Globie's profits. He assured the investor there was no risk and said her investment would be guaranteed by Ottis's assets and insurance. Over the course of three months, the investor gave Ottis \$180,000, including access to a line of credit at her bank. Ottis gave promissory notes, which are securities, to the investor, promising to repay the investment plus interest.

The securities fraud charge arises from the allegations Ottis misrepresented information about the television program and his discussions with Disney and Nickelodeon. He also failed to disclose the business and operating history of Globie, including the fact that the company charter had expired. He is accused of deceiving the investor into believing she was guaranteeing a loan to Ottis, when in fact she was giving him access to a loan made to her. To date, the investor has managed to recover \$66,278 taken from her line of credit. The charge of exploitation of an elder adult is based on the investor being over 65 at the time the investment was solicited.